

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 12849 01 OF 02 080042Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
DOE-15 EB-08 SOE-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00
/094 W

-----125581 080057Z /64

P 080028Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1896
ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 12849

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MX
SUBJECT: LOPEZ PORTILLO AND HIS CABINET

SUMMARY: REPORTS HAVE CIRCULATED IN THE MEXICAN MEDIA THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TOOK HIS CABINET MINISTERS AND HEADS OF PARASTATAL ORGANIZATIONS TO TASK AT A JULY 22 MEETING. JLP SUPPOSEDLY WAS CONCERNED ABOUT (A) RECENT PUBLIC POLICY CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS SECRETARIATS AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, (B) PREMATURE POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS AND AMBITIONS OF CABINET MEMBERS, (C) A GENERAL LACK OF COORDINATION IN HIS ADMINISTRATION, AND (D) THE EFFECT THAT THESE PROBLEMS MIGHT HAVE BOTH ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS ADMINISTRATION AND ON THE IMAGE OF HIS PERSONAL LEADERSHIP. THE MEETING REPORTEDLY HAD A SOBERING EFFECT FOR THOSE PRESENT AND HAS ALREADY SHOWN SIGNS OF PROMOTING GREATER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL HARMONY. HOWEVER, WITH A RELATIVELY LOW-KEY PRESIDENT SUCH AS JLP, THE TEMPTATION WILL REMAIN FOR MEMBERS OF THE CABINET TO APPEAR TO HAVE "THE ANSWER" FOR BASIC NATIONAL PROBLEMS AND TO THUS PROJECT THEMSELVES INTO THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 12849 01 OF 02 080042Z

NATIONAL LIMELIGHT WITH THE HOPE OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE POLICY CONTRADICTIONS AMONG CABINET MEMBERS THAT CONCERN JLP HAVE EXISTED TO VARYING DEGREES IN DIFFERENT AREAS FOR THE 20 MONTHS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. FOR EXAMPLE, PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PEMEX PRESIDENT JORGE DIAZ

SERRANO, WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THAT RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. REGARDING THE SALE OF SURPLUS NATURAL GAS WERE STILL POSSIBLE, HAVE DIFFERED FROM REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF PATRIMONY JOSE ANDRES DE OTEYZA, WHO HAS BEEN PROMOTING MEXICO'S DOMESTIC USE OF ITS GAS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. ON FOOD POLICY DIFFERENCES HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN MANUEL GONZALEZ COSSIO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CONOSUPO, AND FERNANDO SOLANA, FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND PRESENT SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FRANCISCO MERINO RABAGO, AND SECRETARY OF COMMERCE JORGE DE LA VEGA DOMINGUEZ. SOLANO AND GUILLERMO SOBERON, THE RECTOR OF THE HUGE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY REPORTEDLY ALSO HAVE HAD DIFFERENCES. DISPUTES ON ECONOMIC POLICY LED TO THE FIRING LAST DECEMBER OF JULIO RODOLFO MOCTEZUMA CID AND CARLOS TELLO MACIAS, TWO OF JLP'S CLOSEST ADVISORS. THEIR SUCCESSORS DAVID IBARRA MUNOZ OF TREASURY AND RICARDO GARCIA SAINZ OF PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET, HAVE NOT RESOLVED ALL POLICY DIFFERENCES BUT APPEAR TO BE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER.

2. IN THE AREA OF PREMATURE POLITICAL AMBITIONS, THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED THAT CABINET MEMBERS FOCUS MORE ON EMBELLISHING THEIR IMAGES AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR 1982 THAN ON THEIR PRESENT JOBS. A NUMBER OF MEDIA REPORTS HAVE SURFACED REGARDING POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS. AS JLP'S TERM OF OFFICE IS BARELY TWO YEARS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 12849 01 OF 02 080042Z

ALONG, IT IS VERY EARLY FOR THIS TYPE OF SPECULATION AND THE REPORTS MAY HAVE PIQUED JLP. ALSO JLP MAY FEEL THAT THE POLITICAL MANEUVERING OF HIS ADVISORS WILL HURT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS POLICIES.

3. A MEXICAN PRESIDENT MUST ALWAYS APPEAR STRONG AND FULLY IN COMMAND OF THE COUNTRY, AND A DISJOINTED CABINET WOULD OBVIOUSLY WEAKEN JLP'S IMAGE AS A STRONG LEADER. JLP MAY HAVE A DISADVANTAGE IN NOT HAVING A STRONG POLITICAL BACKGROUND. SOME OBSERVERS OF THE MEXICAN POLITICAL SCENE FEEL THAT JLP HAS SUFFERED SOMEWHAT OF A SETBACK IN THE APPARENT FAILURE TO OUST CARLOS SANORES PEREZ, WHO CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AN ADVOCATE OF JLP'S PROGRAM OF POLITICAL REFORMS, FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE PRI. ASIDE FROM THE OTHER REASONS, JLP MAY HAVE CALLED THE MEETING TO REAFFIRM HIS LEADERSHIP AND TO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH AN IMAGE AS A STRONG LEADER, WHICH MAY BE DIFFICULT.

4. COMMENT: SINCE A MEXICAN PRESIDENT CANNOT BE RE-ELECTED, THE QUEST FOR SUCCESSION CAN CREATE ARDUOUS INFIGHTING AMONG POSSIBLE CONTENDERS. IN RECENT DECADES,

THE SECRETARIAT OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THE STEPPING STONE TO THE PRESIDENCY. HOWEVER, JLP HAS CHOSEN JESUS REYES HEROLLES WHO IS CONSTITUTIONALLY INELIGIBLE TO BE PRESIDENT AS HIS SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT, THUS RAISING THE PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS OF HIS OTHER MINISTERS.

5. THE JULY 22 MEETING HAS ALREADY BORNE FRUIT IN THE POLITICAL ARENA BY PROMPTING A PUBLIC RAPPROACHEMENT BETWEEN SANORES PEREZ AND RODOLFO GONZALEZ GUEVARA, THE PRI LEADER IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. THE PRESIDENT MAY BE ABLE TO CONTAIN THE PUBLIC POLICY CONTRADICTIONS AMONG MEMBERS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 12849 02 OF 02 080043Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

DOE-15 EB-08 SOE-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00

/094 W

-----125605 080057Z /64

P 080028Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1897

ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 12849

BY EXERTING MORE FORCEFUL LEADERSHIP. JLP IS A STRONG ADVOCATE OF THE TEAM CONCEPT, AND HE HAS ALREADY SHOWN, IN THE FORCED RESIGNATIONS OF MOCTEZUMA CID AND TELLO MACIAS, THAT HE IS WILLING TO TAKE QUICK AND EFFECTIVE ACTION IF HIS TEAM CONCEPT IS ENDANGERED BY DISAGREEMENTS AMONG HIS ADVISORS. IN ORDER TO HAVE AN EFFICIENTLY WORKING ADMINISTRATION WITH COMPETENT OFFICIALS - AND COMPETENT OFFICIALS IN MEXICO TEND TO BE RATHER AMBITIOUS, JLP WILL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO CONSTRAIN BUT NOT TO POLITICALLY ALIENATE THOSE WHO WISH TO SUCCEED HIM. LUCEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, MEETINGS, LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO12849
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780323-0741
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780888/aaaacvno.tel
Line Count: 165
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 57240467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1805891
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOPEZ PORTILLO AND HIS CABINET SUMMARY: REPORTS HAVE CIRCULATED IN THE MEXICAN MEDIA THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TOOK HIS CABINET MIN
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MX, (LOPEZ PORTILLO Y PACHECO, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57240467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014